

Washington - House Judiciary Committee John Conyers today issued subpoenas against certain former U.S. Attorneys who were recently fired by the Bush Administration. The subpoenas were authorized by the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law (CAL), chaired by Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

The subpoenas require former U.S. Attorneys David C. Iglesias, Carol Lam, H.E. Cummins, III, and John McKay to appear before a CAL Subcommittee hearing next week.

"The former U.S. Attorneys are alleging very serious charges against the Administration and we need to hear from them," Chairman Conyers said. "We want to hear their stories and we want the Administration to address the charges head on so that we can get to the bottom of this."

"We decided to issue subpoenas only as a last resort," said Chairwoman Sánchez. "We need to get to the bottom of whether competency in upholding the law is being sacrificed for political ideology."

Subcommittee members voted this afternoon in a public meeting. The subpoenas will be issued this evening for the U.S. Attorneys to appear before the subcommittee on Tuesday, at 2:00 pm in Room 2141 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing will consider a bill by Congressman Howard Berman that would reverse a new provision in the USA PATRIOT Act allowing the Attorney General to indefinitely appoint federal prosecutors through the end of the Bush Administration without Senate confirmation.